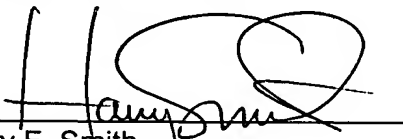


**REMARKS**

This amendment removes the multiple dependencies from the claims. The amendment was not made for reasons related to patentability, and the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of the amended claims, as well as for all of the other claims, should remain intact.

A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Harry F. Smith  
Reg. No.: 32,493

**Customer No.: 29683**  
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP  
4 Research Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484-6212  
Telephone: (203) 925-9400  
Facsimile: (203) 944-0245

12/16/2003  
Date